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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/710,774	08/02/2004	Elisabeth C. Angelos	GEMS8081.222	4773
27061	7590	12/13/2006	EXAMINER	
ZIOLKOWSKI PATENT SOLUTIONS GROUP, SC (GEMS)			VARGAS, DIXOMARA	
136 S WISCONSIN ST			ART UNIT	
PORT WASHINGTON, WI 53074			PAPER NUMBER	
			2859	

DATE MAILED: 12/13/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/710,774	ANGELOS, ELISABETH C.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Dixomara Vargas	2859	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration:
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02 August 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. Figure 3 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hardy et al. (US 6,876,199 B2).

Art Unit: 2859

With respect to claims 1, 9, 15, 17 and 20-22, Hardy discloses an MRI apparatus comprising (as seen on Figure 1): a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) system having a plurality of gradient coils positioned about a bore of a magnet to impress a polarizing magnetic field (#145) and an RF transceiver system (#147 and #190) and an RF switch controlled (in transceiver means #170 in order to switch from transmission to reception) by a pulse module to transmit RF signals to an RF coil assembly to acquire MR images (#120); and a computer programmed to acquire MR data (#110) from a field of view (FOV) that is smaller in a frequency encode direction than in a phase encode direction (Column 6, lines 34-44).

4. With respect to claims 2, 10, 11 and 16, Hardy discloses the computer is further programmed to define the FOV such that the frequency encode direction extends parallel to an anterior/posterior axis extending through the bore (Column 4, lines 46-66).

5. With respect to claim 3, Hardy discloses the computer is further programmed to cause application of a phase encoding gradient and a frequency encoding gradient, and wherein the frequency encoding gradient is designed to cause a range of measured readout frequencies to come from a smaller spatial dimension than that defined by the phase encoding gradient (Column 6, lines 1-44).

6. With respect to claim 4, Hardy discloses the computer is further programmed to dimensionally define the FOV from a left/right size of a two-breast volume (Column 6, lines 1-20, Figure 3).

7. With respect to claims 5, 12 and 18, Hardy discloses the computer is further programmed to reconstruct a bilateral image of a breast region of a subject along a generally axial plane (Column 6, lines 1-44, Figure 3).

Art Unit: 2859

8. With respect to claim 6, Hardy discloses the computer programmed to define readout in a direction to reduce artifacts resulting from cardiac motion during an axial bilateral breast scan (Column 4, lines 62-64).
9. With respect to claims 7, 13 and 19, Hardy discloses the computer is further programmed to define readout in a direction to reduce artifacts from CSF pulsation during a sagittal spine scan (Column 4, lines 62-64).
10. With respect to claims 8 and 14, Hardy discloses the RF coil assembly includes at least phased array coil architecture or a surface coil (Figure 1, coils #190).

Conclusion


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dixomara Vargas whose telephone number is 571-272-2252. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8am-4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Diego Gutierrez can be reached on 571-272-2245. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2859

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Dixomara Vargas
Patent Examiner
December 06, 2006


Diego Gutierrez
Supervisor Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2859